

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT A 02165 162213Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /022 W
-----162215Z 100801 /70

P R 162130Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5249
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2165

DEPT PASS USDA FOR OGMS; SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: BDIS, ETRD, EAID, HA
SUBJECT: COMPLAINT BY U.S. FIRM THAT P.L. 480 TITLE I HURTS EXPORTS

1. SUMMARY: RICHARD DEWEY, VICE PRESIDENT OF RIVIANA INTERNATIONAL, INC., HAS ALLEGED THAT THE P.L. 480 TITLE I AMENDMENT OF APRIL 13, 1977 RESULTED IN A CANCELLATION OF A CONTRACT TO SELL THE GOH \$1.6 MILLION OF RICE. ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS COMPLAINT IS AGAINST THE GOH RATHER THAN THE USG, MR. DEWEY INDICATED THAT HE INTENDS TO SPEAK TO THE USDA AND TO HIS CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT THE MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. MR. DEWEY TOLD EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER THAT ON APRIL 26, 1977 FORMER GOH MINISTER OF COMMERCE SIGNED AN IMPORT LICENSE PERMITTING RIVIANA'S HAITIAN AGENT TO IMPORT 100,000 ONE HUNDRED POUND SACKS OF RICE AT \$16.05 EACH "FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY." ON THE BASIS OF THE IMPORT LICENSE, WHICH HE REGARDED AS A CONTRACT, DEWEY'S FIRM BAGGED AND MARKED 70 PER CENT OF THE RICE FOR HAITI AND LOADED IT ON A SHIP IN ORDER TO MEET A DELIVERY DEADLINE, EVEN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT A 02165 162213Z

THOUGH THE GOH HAD NOT ISSUED ITS LETTER OF CREDIT. ON JUNE 13, RIVIANA'S HAITIAN AGENT WAS INFORMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HAITI'S CENTRAL BANK THAT THE LETTER OF CREDIT WOULD NOT BE ISSUED BEFORE SEPTEMBER, 1977, WHEN THE MARKED WOULD BE CLEAR OF P.L. 480 RICE. MR. DEWEY ALLEGES THAT THE GOH CANCELLED RIVIANA'S "CONTRACT" AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE RECENT AMENDMENT TO THE

P.L. 480 AGREEMENT. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE CLAIMS RIVIANA WILL LOSE \$250,000 ON LOADING, OFFLOADING, WHARFAGE CHARGES, AND RICE MARKET FLUCTUATIONS.

3. MR. DEWEY STATED THAT HE INTENDED TO SPEAK WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE USDA AND, IF NECESSARY, WITH HIS CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT RIVIANA'S CANCELLED SALE. HE INDICATED THAT HE HOPES TO PERSUADE THE USDA TO PRESSURE THE GOH TO COMPENSATE RIVIANA'S LOSSES.

4. THE EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER ADVISED MR. DEWEY THAT HIS COMPLAINT APPEARED TO BE AGAINST THE GOH RATHER THAN THE USG. MR. DEWEY READILY AGREED.
ISHAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, RICE, TRADE COMPLAINTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTA02165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770215-0924
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770650/aaaabrpt.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cdd57c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2128537
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPLAINT BY U.S. FIRM THAT P.L. 480 TITLE I HURTS EXPORTS
TAGS: BDIS, ETRD, EAID, HA, US, RIVIANA INTERNATIONAL INC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cdd57c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009